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COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☐ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 02, 30 January 1998 (1998-01-30) & JP 09 270747 A (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP), 14 October 1997 (1997-10-14) * abstract *	1-19	H01L25/16
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 01, 29 January 1999 (1999-01-29) & JP 10 282372 A (FUJITSU LTD), 23 October 1998 (1998-10-23) * abstract *	1-19	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 03, 27 February 1998 (1998-02-27) & JP 09 289329 A (FUJITSU LTD), 4 November 1997 (1997-11-04) * abstract *	1-19	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 12, 29 October 1999 (1999-10-29) & JP 11 183758 A (HITACHI LTD), 9 July 1999 (1999-07-09) * abstract *	1-19	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) H01L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 7 March 2001	Examiner Bekkerling, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 40 3645

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

07-03-2001

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 09270747 A	14-10-1997	NONE	
JP 10282372 A	23-10-1998	NONE	
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JP 11183758 A	09-07-1999	NONE	